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EXAMINER

DODDS, HAROLD E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/723,960

Applicant(s)

CRONIN ET AL.

Examiner

Harold E. Dodds, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 50-103 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 50-53, 55-66, 68-78, 80-92 and 94-103 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 54, 67, 79 and 93 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 98 and 101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,327).

3. Hunter anticipates independent claim 98 by the following:

“...retrieving a plurality of patent documents from a first database...” at col. 30, lines 19-20, col. 1, lines 16-20, and col. 5, lines 41-49.

“...each of said plurality of patent documents disclosing at least one invention...” at col. 1, lines 16-20 and col. 29, lines 59-61.

“...reviewing each of said plurality of patent documents...” at col. 17, lines 50-52 and col. 1, lines 16-20.

“...so as to determine for each of said plurality of patent documents...” at col. 13, lines 28-30 and col. 1, lines 16-20.

"...a problem solved by said at least one invention corresponding to that one of said plurality of patent documents..." at col. 15, lines 34-40, col. 19, lines 59-61, col. 16, lines 17-21, and col. 1, lines 16-20.

"...preparing a problem solved statement for each said problem solved..." at col. 8, lines 35-37, col. 15, lines 37-40, and col. 13, lines 21-25.

"...and entering each said problem solved statement into a second database..." at col. 4, lines 17-20, col. 13, lines 21-25, and col. 5, lines 41-49.

"...so that each said problem solved statement corresponds to a respective one of said plurality of patent documents..." at col. 13, lines 21-25, col. 16, lines 17-21, and col. 1, lines 16-20.

4. As per claim 101, the "...first set of computer-executable instructions for presenting a user..." is taught by Hunter at col. 7, lines 60-64, col. 18, lines 16-18, and col. 22, lines 4-6,

the "...with a plurality of front page data input fields..." is taught by Hunter at col. 12, lines 22-23, col. 29, lines 44-45, and col. 18, lines 10-12,

the "...and labeling said plurality of front page data input fields..." is taught by Hunter at col. 24, lines 50-53, col. 12, lines 22-23, col. 29, lines 44-45, and col. 18, lines 10-12,

the "...with a plurality of first indicia that indicates that said plurality of front page data input fields..." is taught by Hunter at col. 6, lines 58-59, col. 12, lines 22-23, col. 29, lines 44-45, and col. 18, lines 10-12,

the "...are for receiving the front page data..." is taught by Hunter at col. 3, lines 12-14 and col. 12, lines 22-23,

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the "...second set of computer-executable instructions for storing in a database...", is taught by Hunter at col. 7, lines 60-64 and col. 5, lines 41-49,

the "...front page data input into said plurality of front page data input fields...", is taught by Hunter at col. 12, lines 22-23, col. 29, lines 44-45, and col. 18, lines 10-12,

the "...third set of computer-executable instructions for presenting the user...", is taught by Hunter at col. 7, lines 60-64, col. 18, lines 16-18, and col. 22, lines 4-6,

the "...with a problem solved statement input field...", is taught by Hunter at col. 15, lines 37-40, col. 13, lines 21-25, col. 29, lines 44-45, and col. 18, lines 10-12,

the "...and labeling said problem solved statement input field with indicia that indicates that said problem solved statement input field...", is taught by Hunter at col. 24, lines 50-53, col. 15, lines 37-40, col. 13, lines 21-25, col. 29, lines 44-45, col. 18, lines 10-12, and col. 6, lines 58-59,

the "...is for receiving a problem solved statement...", is taught by Hunter at col. 3, lines 12-14, col. 15, lines 37-40, and col. 13, lines 21-25,

the "...extracted from a patent document of the group of patent documents...", is taught by Hunter at col. 17, lines 50-52, col. 1, lines 16-20, and col. 25, lines 24-26,

and the "...and a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for storing in said database said problem solved statement....", is taught by Hunter at col. 7, lines 60-64, col. 5, lines 41-49, col. 15, lines 37-40, and col. 13, lines 21-25.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 50, 51, 55-57, 63, 64, 68-70, 75, 76, 80-82, 87-89, and 93-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,474) Liddy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,056).

7. Dunworth renders obvious independent claim 50 as follows:

"...developing a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user..." at col. 13, lines 32-34, col. 2, lines 54-58, and col. 9, lines 13-17.

"...developing a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests..." at col. 13, lines 32-34, col. 25, lines 21-24, and col. 9, lines 13-17.

"...said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments..." at col. 25, lines 21-24, col. 25, lines 53-57, and col. 2, lines 54-58.

"...searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments..." at col. 10, lines 44-51 and col. 2, lines 54-58.

"...so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from among the plurality of documents..." at col. 17, lines 53-57.

"...reading each of said plurality of retrieved documents..." at col. 13, lines 43-45 and col. 17, lines 53-57.

"...from each of said plurality of retrieved documents..." at col. 17, lines 53-57.

"...a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields..." at col. 25, lines 21-24 and col. 19, lines 61-63.

"...so as to obtain a plurality of user-defined field values..." at col. 13, lines 43-45, col. 25, lines 21-24, and col. 19, lines 61-63.

"...entering said plurality of user-defined value..." at col. 24, lines 20-24.

"...into a second database..." at col. 10, lines 44-51.

"...and entering the ones of the plurality of search field values..." at col. 5, lines 22-24, col. 18, lines 63-65, and col. 19, lines 61-63.

"...corresponding to said plurality of retrieved documents into said second database..." at col. 17, lines 53-57 and col. 10, lines 44-51.

Dunworth does not teach the extracting of information.

8. However, Liddy teaches the extracting of information as follows:

"...so as to extract..." at col. 1, lines 16-21.

"...extracted..." at col. 1, lines 16-21.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Liddy with Dunworth to provide extraction of information from documents in order to provide textual information for the development of new documents and the

modification of existing documents. Dunworth and Liddy teach the use of related systems. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, and the retrieval of information. Dunworth provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases, the use of fields for data, the use of values and Liddy provides for extraction of information. For independent claim 50, the terms "generate", "search criteria", and "different" have been used to suggest the terms "develop", "search arguments", and "distinct", respectively.

9. As per independent claims 63, 75, and 87, the "...receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user....," is taught by Dunworth at col. 13, lines 43-45, col. 2, lines 54-58, and col. 9, lines 13-17, the "...receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 13, lines 43-45, col. 25, lines 21-24, and col. 9, lines 13-17, the "...said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 25, lines 21-24, col. 25, lines 53-57, and col. 2, lines 54-58, the "...searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 10, lines 44-51 and col. 2, lines 54-58, the "...so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 17, lines 53-57, the "...receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 13, lines 43-45 and col. 17, lines 53-57,

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the "...user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 25, lines 21-24 and col. 19, lines 61-63, the "...so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 13, lines 43-45, col. 25, lines 21-24, and col. 19, lines 61-63, the "...said plurality of user-defined field values...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 25, lines 21-24 and col. 19, lines 61-63, the "...having been extracted...", is taught by Liddy at col. 1, lines 16-21, the "...from said plurality of retrieved documents...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 17, lines 53-57, the "...entering said plurality of user-defined values received...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 24, lines 20-24 and col. 13, lines 43-45, the "...into a second database...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 10, lines 44-51, the "...entering the plurality of search field values...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 5, lines 22-24 and col. 18, lines 63-65, and the "...into said second database...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 10, lines 44-51.

10. As per claims 51, 64, 76, and 89, the "...step of filtering said plurality of retrieved documents...", is taught by Liddy at col. 10, lines 9-14, the "...based on at least some of said set of search arguments...", is taught by dunworth at col. 2, lines 54-58, the "...so as to obtain a refined set of documents...", is taught by Liddy at col. 8, lines 54-60 and col. 10, lines 9-14,

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and the "...being performed relative to said refined set of documents..." is taught by Liddy at col. 3, lines 51-54 and col. 8, lines 54-60. For claims 51, 64, 76, and 89, the term "done" is used to suggest the term "performed".

11. As per claims 55, 68, 80, and 93, the "...step of associating, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 8, lines 44-48 and col. 17, lines 53-57, the "...weight..." is taught by Liddy at col. 5, lines 10-11, and the "...with each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 25, lines 21-24.

12. As per claims 56, 69, 81, and 94, the "...step of entering said weights..." is taught by Liddy at col. 9, lines 20-26 and col. 5, lines 10-11 and the "...into said second database..." is taught by Dunworth at at col. 10, lines 44-51.

13. As per claims 57, 70, 82, and 95, the "...step of tallying said weights..." is taught by Liddy at col. 9, lines 20-26 and col. 5, lines 10-11 and the "...for each of said plurality of retrieved documents..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 17, lines 53-57.

For claims 57, 70, 82, and 93, the term "sum" is used to suggest the term "tally".

14. As per claim 88, the "...said second database is contained in said computer..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 18, lines 55-59.

15. Claims 52, 53, 65, 66, 77, 78, 90, and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunworth and Liddy as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,752).

As per claims 52, 65, 77, and 90, the "...and assigning each of said plurality of retrieved documents..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 6, lines 1-4 and col. 17, lines 53-57, but the "...steps of forming a plurality of HLA clusters..." and the "...to one of said plurality of high level of abstraction (HLA) clusters..." are not taught by either Dunworth or Liddy.

However, Chen teaches the use of high level abstraction clusters as follows:

"The "Clustering Report" 2410 contains the most characteristic keywords 2412 across all documents for the user cluster. This enables quick access to a high level abstraction of this modality while simultaneously viewing other properties..." at col. 30, lines 13-17.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Chen with Dunworth and Liddy to provide high level abstraction clusters in order to provide simultaneous viewing of this representation of the cluster of documents with other properties of the documents and obtain greater user acceptance of the system. Dunworth, Liddy, and Chen teach the use of related systems. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, and the retrieval of information and Liddy and Chen teach the use of clusters. Dunworth provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases, the use of fields for

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data, the use of values, Liddy provides for extraction of information, and Chen provides high level abstraction clusters. In claims 52, 65, 77, and 90, the term "distribute" is used to suggest the term "assign".

16. As per claims 53, 66, 78, and 91, each of said plurality of HLA clusters..., "is taught by Chen at col. 30, lines 13-17, the "...has a corresponding cluster identifier...", is taught by Chen at col. 36, lines 41-45, the "...and the method further comprises the step of entering into said second database for each of said plurality of retrieved documents...", is taught by Dunworth at col. 10, lines 44-51 and col. 17, lines 53-57, and the "...one of said cluster identifiers...", is taught by Chen at col. 36, lines 41-45.

17. Claims 58, 60-62, 71-74, 83-86, 96, and 97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunworth and Liddy as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Bollay (U.S. Patent No. 6,457,009).

As per claim 58, the "...includes the step of at least partially populating a first input form...", is not taught by either Dunworth or Liddy.

However, Bollay teaches the use of partial population and the use of input forms as follows:

"Local browser software populates a specific search form peculiar to a given remote database by utilizing the translations as embodied in JavaScript code..." at col. 2, lines 51-54.

"...It will be understood by those skilled in the art that a blank, or partially blank, FORM may be displayed; that is, a

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form that does not set forth field names of the fields that a user must fill in..." at col. 5, lines 21-24.

"...The software displays 302 an HTML data input form in a first window of an Internet browser..." at col. 5, lines 43-45.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Bollay with Dunworth and Liddy to provide partially populated input forms in order to provide input forms with known parameters already in the forms to reduce the amount of user input required, minimize the amount of errors made in the input, and save the users data entry time. Dunworth, Liddy, and Bollay teach the use of related systems. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, and the retrieval of information. Dunworth provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases, the use of fields for data, the use of values, Liddy provides for extraction of information, and Bollay provides partially populated input forms.

18. As per claim 60, the "...step of at least partially populating a second input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 2, lines 51-54, col. 5, lines 21-24, and col. 5, lines 43-45.

19. As per claim 61, the "...at least partially populating said second input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 2, lines 51-54, col. 5, lines 21-24, and col. 5, lines 43-45,
the "...includes populating said second input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 2, lines 51-54 and col. 5, lines 43-45,

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the "...with answers to questions..." is taught by Liddy at col. 1, lines 16-21, and the "...relating to a business of the user..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 9, lines 59-67.

20. As per claim 62, the "...assigning weights to at least some of said answers..." is taught by Liddy at col. 6, lines 6-7, col. 5, lines 10-11, and col. 1, lines 16-21.

21. As per claims 71, 83, and 96, the "...of presenting the user with a first input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 5, lines 21-24 and col. 5, lines 43-45 and the "...for developing said set of search arguments..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 13, lines 32-34 and col. 2, lines 54-58.

22. As per claims 72, 84, and 97, the "...of presenting the user with a second input form..." is taught by Bollay col. 5, lines 21-24 and col. 5, lines 43-45 and the "...for developing said set of user-defined fields..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 13, lines 32-34 and col. 25, lines 21-24.

23. As per claims 73 and 85, the "...receiving via said second input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 8, lines 4-5 and col. 5, lines 43-45, the "...answers a plurality of questions..." is taught by Liddy at col. 1, lines 16-21, and the "...relating to a business of the user..." is taught by Dunworth at col. 9, lines 59-67.

24. As per claim 74 and 86, the "...receiving via said second input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 8, lines 4-5 and col. 5, lines 43-45

and the "...weights for at least some of said answers..." is taught by Liddy at col. 5, lines 10-11 and col. 1, lines 16-21.

25. Claim 59 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunworth, Liddy, and Bollay as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Chen.

As per claim 59, the "...step of at least partially populating said first input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 2, lines 51-54, col. 5, lines 21-24, and col. 5, lines 43-45, the "...comprises populating said first input form..." is taught by Bollay at col. 2, lines 51-54 and col. 5, lines 43-45, but the "...with known documents already known to the user..." is not taught by either Dunworth, Liddy, or Bollay.

However, Chen teaches the use of known documents as follows:

"...It should be observed that in a presently preferred embodiment of the invention, the collection 120 comprises all known documents that will ever be processed by a system according to the invention..." at col. 10, lines 21-24.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Chen with Dunworth, Liddy, and Bollay to populate input forms with known document numbers in order to provide input forms with known documents already in the database to reduce the amount of user input required, minimize the amount of errors made in the input, and save the users data entry time. Dunworth, Liddy, Bollay, and Chen teach the use of related systems. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, and the retrieval of information and Dunworth, Liddy, and Chen teach the use of networks. Dunworth provides for the

search and retrieval of documents from databases, the use of fields for data, the use of values, Liddy provides for extraction of information, Bollay provides partially populated input forms, and Chen provides known document numbers as input to the population of forms.

26. Claims 99 and 102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter as applied to claims 98 and 101 above respectively, and further in view of Lautenheiser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,693).

As per claim 99, the "...patent documents in the group of patent documents are owned..." is taught by Hunter at col. 1, lines 16-20, col. 25, lines 24-26, and col. 12, lines 61-65,
the "...and the method further comprises the steps of retrieving each said problem solved statement from said second database..." is taught by Hunter at col. 3, lines 12-14, col. 15, lines 37-40, col. 13, lines 21-25, and co. 5, lines 41-49,
ther "...and utilizing each said problem solved statement to perform at least one of..." is taught by Hunter at col. 13, lines 51-53, col. 15, lines 37-40, col. 13, lines 21-25, and col. 26, lines 35-38,
but the "...by at least one business competitor..."
the "...patent opportunity analysis..."
and the "...patent threat analysis..." are not taught by Hunter.

However, Lautenheiser teaches the use of business competitors and the use of opportunity and threat analyses as follows:

"...This enables a business to perform comparisons between itself and its competitors..." at col. 2, lines 6-7.

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"...The user selects one or more surveys and request a strength, weakness, opportunity or threat analysis..." at col. 27, lines 65-67.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Lautenheiser with Hunter to perform comparisons between a business and its competitors in order to provide information on the relative strengths and weaknesses of related patents. These comparisons may be performed using opportunity or threat analysis, which are common tools used by industry for such comparisons. Hunter and Lautenheiser teach the use of related systems. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, the recognition of problems, and the use of statements. Hunter provides for patent documents, inventions, and problem solved statements and Lautenheiser provides business competitors, opportunity analysis, and threat analysis.

27. As per claim 102, the "...patent documents in the group of patent documents are owned...", is taught by Hunter at col. 1, lines 16-20, col. 25, lines 24-26, and col. 12, lines 61-65, the "...by at least one business competitor...", is taught by Lautenheiser at col. 2, lines 6-7, the "...and said computer-executable instructions further comprise a fifth set of computer-executable instructions for retrieving each said problem solved statement from said database...", is taught by Hunter at col. 7, lines 60-64, col. 3, lines 12-14, col. 15, lines 37-40, col. 13, lines 21-25, and co. 5, lines 41-49,

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the "...and for performing at least one of...", is taught by Hunter col. 26, lines 35-38, the "...patent opportunity analysis and a patent threat analysis...", is taught by Lautenheiser at col. 27, lines 65-67, and the "...using said problem solved statement...", is taught by Hunter at col. 15, lines 34-40 and col. 13, lines 21-25.

28. Claims 100 and 103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter as applied to claims 98 and 101 above respectively, and further in view of Onishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,720).

As per claim 100, the "...with each said problem solved statement...", is taught by Hunter at col. 15, lines 34-40 and col. 13, lines 21-25, the "...into said second database...", is taught by Hunter at col. 5, lines 41-49, the "...is correlated with a corresponding respective said problem solved statement...", is taught by Hunter at col. 17, lines 15-16, col. 15, lines 34-40, and col. 13, lines 21-25, but the "...associating a weight of importance...", the "...and entering each said weight of importance...", and the "...so that said weight of importance...", are not taught by Hunter.

However Onishi teaches the use of weights of importance as follows:

"...The semantic features forming the semantic feature string of each set are each given weight information representing the significance, or degree of importance, of the corresponding semantic feature in the input conversational sentence..." at col. 22, lines 36-39.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Onishi with Hunter to provide weights of importance in order to provide a

means of ranking importance of the problems solved and gain greater acceptance with prospective users. Hunter and Onishi teach the use of related systems. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of fields, the use of information, the searching for information, and the recognition of problems. Hunter provides for patent documents, inventions, and problem solved statements and Onishi provides weights of importance.

29. As per claim 103, the "...associating a weight of importance..." is taught by Onishi at col. 22, lines 36-39,
the "...with said problem solved statement..." is taught by Hunter at col. 15, lines 34-40 and col. 13, lines 21-25,
the "...and said computer-executable instructions comprise a sixth set of computer-executable instructions for presenting the user..." is taught by Hunter 7, lines 60-64, col. 18, lines 16-18, and col. 22, lines 4-6,
the "...with a weight of importance input field..." is taught by Onishi at col. 22, lines 36-39 and col. 37, lines 47-52,
the "...and labeling..." is taught by Hunter at col. 24, lines 50-53,
the "...said problem weight of importance input field..." is taught by Onishi at col. 65, lines 54-55, col. 22, lines 36-39, and col. 37, lines 47-52,
the "...with indicia that indicates..." is taught by Hunter at col. 6, lines 58-59,
and the that said weight of importance input field is for receiving the weight..." is taught by Onishi at col. 22, lines 36-39, col. 37, lines 47-52, and col. 3, lines 12-14.

Allowable Subject Matter

30. Claims 54, 67, 79, and 92 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

31. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 50-97 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. In the first argument for independent claim 50 on page 13, paragraphs 4 and 5, page 14, paragraphs 1 and 2, the Applicants state:

"Regarding independent claim 50, this claim requires, among other things, the step of developing a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner asserts that Dunworth et al. disclose this step at col. 13, lines 32-34, col. 2, lines 54-58, and col. 9, lines 13-17. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the cited passages of cols. 9 and 13, Dunworth et al. describe how a user uses either a geographical map or topical map to select, respectively, a geographical location or topic of interest. This is accomplished simply by mapping a screen location on which the user clicks to a URL that corresponds to the map location on which the user clicked. The URL directs the system to the information relating to the geographic location or topic selected. At col. 2, lines 54-58, Dunworth et al. describe how a user's menu selections can be translated into a set of search engine queries or a set of Web destinations. Importantly, in each of these cited passages, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a step of developing a set of search arguments, as required by claim 50. In the context of claim 50, the plain and ordinary meaning of the word "developing" is "arising and then increasing or progressing to a more complex state." [Definition adapted from the Eucarta on-line dictionary definition of "develop," i.e., "to arise and then increase or progress to a more developed state." See the exhibit attached hereto.] Consequently, the "developing" limitation of claim 50 requires more than simply a predetermined mapping of screen (map) locations to corresponding URLs or a predetermined "translation" of menu selections to a set of search queries or Web destinations. In both of these instances in the Liddy et al. patent, nothing is developed. The user's selection simply causes a predetermined result. Since neither the Dunworth et al. patent nor the Liddy et al. patent disclose or suggest the development of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user, the combination of these two patents cannot render claim 50 obvious."

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The Examiner disagrees. In "Roget's International Thesaurus", copyright, 1946, by Thomas Y. Crowell Company, paragraph 153.6 for the term "cause" both "develop" and "generate" are listed as synonyms. It is clear that these two words are interchangeable pertaining to the use of the word "develop" in independent claim 50. Dunworth teaches the remainder of this limitation as follows:

"...The web organizer of the preferred embodiment translates the user's current menu selections into either a **set of search engine queries** that provide further menu selections, or a set of web destinations that satisfy the **user's search criteria.**" At col. 2, lines 54-58.

"...In this manner, topical searches are seamlessly merged with geographical searches so that the user is able to geographically pinpoint the location of the desired goods or services in which the **user is interested.**" at col. 9, lines 13-17.

It is clear, that the combination of these three teachings of Dunworth renders obvious the limitation "developing a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user".

32. In the second argument for independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 on page 14, paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, page 15, paragraph 1, the Applicants state:

"Regarding independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87, each of these claims require, among other things, a limitation directed to developing a set of user-defined fields relating to one or more interests of a user. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserts that Dunworth et al. discloses these limitations at col. 13, lines 43-45, col. 24, lines 66-67, col. 35, line 1, and col. 9, lines 13-17. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Each of these cited passages is directed to the Dunworth et al. system mapping a URL to a user selection. This mapping cannot reasonably be considered developing a set of user-defined fields, as required by each of independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87. As discussed above, the word "developing" requires more than mere mapping.

Furthermore, the term "user-defined fields," under its plain and ordinary meaning, denotes data input fields defined by a user. The cited passages have nothing to do with data input fields or user-defined fields. Indeed, in the Dunworth et al. system the user

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does not define anything. The user merely makes selections. Any defining relating to the Dunworth et al. system is performed by the designers of the Dunworth et al. system. Since neither Dunworth et al. nor Liddy et al. disclose the developing of user-defined fields, the combination of the two patents cannot render independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87, nor claims 51-62, 64-74, 76-86 and 88-97, obvious."

The Examiner disagrees. Dunworth teaches the use of user-defined fields as follows:

"...It should be noted that, although the fields described above are the standardly defined fields in one actual embodiment, other **fields** could be **defined** by each **publisher** as called for by the specific application..." at col. 25, lines 21-24.

Dunworth indicates that a publisher is a user. When a publisher defines fields the fields will be user-defined fields. The issue of using "generate" to suggest its synonym "develop" is discussed in the response to the first argument. Finally, since the responses to the first two arguments show that independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 are rendered obvious, claims 51-62 depend on independent claim 50, claims 64-74 depend on independent claim 63, claims 76-86 depend on independent claim 75, claims 88-97 depend on independent claim 87, and no additional arguments have been made for any of these claims in either the first or second argument then 51-62, 64-74, 76-86, and 88-97 are still rendered obvious.

33. In the third argument for independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 on page 15, paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 the Applicants state:

"Also regarding independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87, each of these claims requires, among other things, limitations directed to reading each retrieved document and extracting from each document a user-defined field value and then entering the user-defined field values into a second database. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserts that Liddy et al. disclose the step of extracting a user-defined field value at col. 1, lines 16-21 and that Dunworth et al. disclose the step of entering the user-defined field values into the second database at col. 5, lines 22-24, col. 24, lines 66 to col. 25, line 1, and col. 19 lines 61-63. Applicants respectfully disagree.

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At col. 1, lines 16-21 Liddy et al. mention that their system and method may be used in connection with "knowledge extraction" generally. That is, a user may use the Liddy et al. system and method to search for documents of interest and glean or extract knowledge or information from the retrieved documents.

At the cited locations of the Dunworth et al. patent, Dunworth et al. disclose features that allow a user to make selections relative to geographic locations and topics so that the Dunworth software retrieves information of interest to the user. For example, at col. 24, line 66 to col. 25, line 1, Dunworth et al. describes a URL field for the yellow pages database. This URL field is established by the designer(s) of the Dunworth et al. software and may contain a predetermined URL (i.e., not entered by a user) for linking the user to the URL destination. Similarly, at col. 19, lines 61-63 Dunworth et al. discuss in the context of the geographical database pre-defined label fields and predetermined values for these fields. None of the fields and field values of the Dunworth et al. system are user defined or user entered.

The Examiner disagrees. The issue of user-defined fields is answered in the response to the second argument. Dunworth teaches the use of user-defined values as follows:

"...For instance, instead of hard-coding the reference to a yellow page directory search, the **publisher** can simply **enter YP:SCHOOL** to cause a configured value to be used for references to the yellow pages database 245..." at col. 24, lines 20-24.

The entry "YP:school" is a user-defined value since it is not hard coded. Any value that is entered into a user-defined field would be a user-defined field value. Therefore, since the response to the second argument shows that Dunworth provides for user-defined fields then values entered into these fields would be user-defined field values. The limitation "extracting a user-defined field value" is taught by a combination of the Liddy and Dunworth references. Liddy teaches the extraction of information at col. 1, lines 16-21 and Dunworth teaches the use of user-defined field values at col. 25, lines 21-24 and col. 19, lines 61-63.

34. In the fourth argument for independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 on page 15, paragraph 4 and page 16, paragraphs 1 and 2, the Applicants state:

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"The Dunworth et al. software is a navigation tool that is not user modifiable, nor allows a user to populate a database. Consequently, Applicants assert that the Dunworth et al. patent cannot stand for the proposition of allowing a user (i.e., not the software designer(s)) to enter user-defined fields values into a second database, as required by rejected independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87. In addition, since Dunworth et. al. do not disclose a database front end that allows a user to populate a database with information, those skilled in the art would not have any reason to combine the teachings of Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. in the manner the Examiner asserts. Therefore, Applicants assert that the rejection is improper.

Like the Dunworth et al. software, the Liddy et al. system and method does not include any features that allow a user to populate user-defined fields with information extracted from documents. Again, the Liddy et al. system and method are for classifying documents using natural language processing techniques to create subject vectors that represent the content and subject matter of the texts contained in documents. Since the combination of the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. patents lack the limitations of independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87 that extracted user-defined fields values are entered into a second database, the combination cannot render these claims obvious."

The Examiner disagrees. The issue of user-defined fields is addressed in the response to the second argument and the issue of user-defined values is addressed in the response to the third argument. The Dunworth system is certainly a navigation tool, but it is a user modifiable navigation tool. The issue of populating the databases is not addressed in independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87. The issue of populating databases is claimed in dependent claims 58-62 and is taught by Bollay at col. 2, lines 51-54.

35. In the fifth argument for claims 51, 64, 76, and 89 on page 16, paragraph 3, the Applicants state:

"Regarding claims 51, 64, 76 and 89, each of these claims depend from one of independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87, which, as discussed above, are not rendered obvious by the cited combination. For at least this reason, claims 51, 64, 76 and 89 are not obvious in view of this combination."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the responses to the first through the fourth arguments have shown that independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 are rendered obvious, claims 51, 64, 76 and 89 depend from independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87, respectively, and

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no additional arguments have been provided for any of these claims then claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 remain rendered obvious.

36. In the sixth argument for claims 55, 56, 68, 69, 80, 81, 93, and 94 on page 16, paragraph 4, the Applicants state:

"Regarding claims 55, 56, 68, 69, 80, 81, 93 and 94, each of these claims includes, among other things, a limitation directed to associating a weight with each of at least some user-defined fields. Based on Applicants' understanding of the subject matter of the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. patents, neither disclose user-defined fields. Therefore, the weights that Liddy et al. disclose in the context of their predetermined subject fields codes do not anticipate the weights of claims 55, 68, 80 and 93. Since neither of the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. patents disclose or suggest associating weights with user-defined fields, any combination of these patents cannot render these claims obvious."

The Examiner disagrees. The issue of user-defined fields is addressed in the response to the second argument. Since Liddy teaches the use of weights at col. 5, lines 10-11 then a combination of Dunworth and Liddy renders obvious the limitation directed to associating a weight with each of at least some user-defined fields.

37. In the seventh argument for claims 57, 70, 82, and 95 on page 16, paragraphs 5 and 6 and page 17, paragraph 1, the Applicants state:

"Regarding claims 57, 70, 82 and 95, each of these claims includes, among other things, a limitation directed to the tallying of the weights associated with the user-defined fields of claims 55, 56, 68, 69, 80, 81, 93 and 94. In rejecting claims 57, 70, 82 and 95, the Examiner asserts that Liddy et al. disclose the tallying of weights at col. 9, lines 20-26 and col. 5, lines 10-11. Applicants respectfully disagree. In rejecting claims 55, 68, 80 and 93, the Examiner asserts that Liddy et al. disclose the "weights" limitation of these claims at col. 5, lines 10-11. The weights disclosed at this passage are weights corresponding to subject fields codes, which are derived from summing occurrences of words for each subject field code. The subject code weights are contained in the subject code vector and are not summed. Rather, it is the word occurrences that are summed, as described at col. 9, lines 20-26. Applicants assert that the Examiner is improperly applying the word summation techniques described at col. 9, lines 20-26 to the weights disclosed at col. 5, lines 10-11. Applicants believe that these two passages describe concepts that are separate and distinct from one another and,

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as such, cannot reasonably be combined as the Examiner has done in rejecting these claims. Since neither the Liddy et al. patent nor Dunworth et al. patent disclose the weight tallying limitation of claims 57, 70, 82 and 95, the combination of these two patents cannot render these claims obvious."

The Examiner disagrees. In the Liddy reference, the vectors representing magnitudes of the subject field codes are summed and not the subject field codes. It makes no sense to sum subject field codes, which are labels. This summing of vectors is clearly analogous to the tallying of weights.

38. In the eighth argument for claim 88 on page 17, paragraph 2, the Applicants state:

"Regarding claim 88, this claim depends from independent claim 87, which as discussed above, is not obvious in view of the cited combination. For at least this reason, claim 88 is not rendered obvious by the combination."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the responses to the first through the fourth arguments have shown that independent claim 87 is rendered obvious, claim 88 depends from independent claim 87, and no additional arguments have been provided for claim 88 then claim 88 remains rendered obvious.

39. In the ninth argument for claims 52-54, 65-67, 77-79 and 90-92 on page 18, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 the Applicants state:

"First, claims 52-54, 65-67, 77-79 and 90-92 are not obvious in view of the cited combination as being dependent from independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87, which are not obvious for the reasons discussed above relative to the rejection in view of the Dunworth et al./Liddy et al. combination.

Second, claims 52-54, 65-67, 77-79 and 90-92 are not rendered obvious by the present combination since none of the Dunworth et al., Liddy et al. and Chen et al. patents disclose or suggest the steps of assigning retrieved documents to HLA clusters and filling out an HLA framework form. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserts that at col. 30, lines 13-17 Chen et al. disclose HLA clusters. Applicants respectfully disagree.

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The passage at col. 7, lines 13-17 describes a "Clustering Report" (FIG. 24) that contains information relating to user clusters. Among the information contained in the Clustering Report is a list of the most characteristic keywords across all documents for a particular user cluster. Chen et al. describe the list of keywords as enabling "quick access to a high level abstraction of this modality" It is Applicants' position that the keyword list is the high level of abstraction that Chen et al. are describing. That is, based on the Chen et al. description of their system and method, and particularly the cited description of the Clustering Report, someone having ordinary skill in the art would not reasonably consider the user clusters to be "high-level of abstraction" clusters. Rather, those skilled in the art would understand that the keyword list provides a high level of abstraction view of the subject modality. One does not flow from the other. Consequently, it is Applicants' position that Chen et al. do not disclose the HLA clusters of the rejected claims."

The Examiner disagrees. Chen teaches the use of high level abstractions in the context of clustering at col. 30, lines 13-17. Chen further develops the concept of clustering starting at col. 19, line 42.

40. In the tenth argument for claims 54, 67, 79 and 90-92 on page 18, paragraph 4 and page 19, paragraph 1 the Applicants state:

"In rejecting claims 54, 67, 79 and 92, the Examiner asserts that at col. 16, lines 29-32 and col. 7, lines 27-29 Chen et al. disclose the filling out of an HLA framework form, as required by each of these claims. Applicants respectfully disagree. Both of these cited passages, as well as the rest of the Chen et al. patent, are silent on the recited step. The only similarity that Applicants can identify is that in the passage of col. 16, lines 29-32, Chen et al. use the word "framework." However, this appearance of "framework" has nothing whatsoever to do with an HLA framework form, not to mention a step of filling out an HLA framework form. Since the Chen et al. patent, as well as the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. patents, fail to disclose the filling out of an HLA framework form, the cited combination cannot render obvious claims 54, 67, 79 and 92.

The Examiner agrees.

41. In the eleventh argument for claims 54, 67, 79 and 90-92 on page 19, paragraphs 4 and 5 and page 20, paragraph 1 the Applicants state:

"First, each of claims 58, 60-62, 71-74, 83-86, 96 and 97 depends from one of independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87, which are not rendered obvious by the Dunworth et al./Liddy et al. combination as discussed above. The Bollay patent does not provide

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the claim limitations missing from the Dunworth et al./Liddy et al. combination.

Consequently, any combination of the Dunworth et al., Liddy et al. and Bollay patents cannot render obvious claims 58, 60-62, 71-74, 83-86, 96 and 97.

Second, those having ordinary skill in the art have no motivation to combine the Bollay teachings with the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. teachings in the manner asserted by the Examiner. This is so because neither the Dunworth et al. software nor Liddy et al. system and method have any need for the input forms disclosed by Bollay. Applicants assert that the only motivation to combine the Bollay teachings with the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. teachings is the hindsight motivation of the present claims. It is Applicants' position that the level of hindsight needed to combine the Bollay teachings with the Dunworth et al. and Liddy et al. teachings is impermissible in formulating an obviousness-type rejection. It is clear to Applicants that anyone having ordinary skill in the art, having reviewed the Dunworth et al., Liddy et al. and Bollay patents, would not arrive at the subject matter of claims 58, 60-62, 71-74, 83-86, 96 and 97 without these claims as a guide for bringing together limitations that are otherwise not obviously combinable. Therefore, Applicants believe that the present rejection is improper.

The Examiner disagrees. Since the responses to the first through the fourth arguments have shown that independent claims 50, 63, 75, and 87 are rendered obvious, claims 58 and 60-62 depend from independent claim 50, claims 71-74 depend on independent claim 63, claims 83-86 depend on independent claim 75, claims 96 and 97 depend on independent claims 87 then claims 58, 60-62, 71-74, 83-86, 96, and 97 remain rendered obvious. Since the combination of Dunworth and Liddy has already rendered obvious independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87 there is no additional requirement that Bollay also render these claims obvious. Likewise, in response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's

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disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

42. In the twelfth argument for claim 59 on page 20, paragraphs 3 and 4 the Applicants state:

First, claim 59 depends from independent claim 50, which is not rendered obvious by the Dunworth et al./Liddy et al. combination as discussed above. The Chen et al. and Bollay patents do not provide the claim limitations missing from the Dunworth et al./Liddy et al. combination. Consequently, any combination of the Dunworth et al., Liddy et al., Chen et al. and Bollay patents cannot render obvious claim 59.

Second, claim 59 contains the limitation, among others, that the step of populating a first input form includes populating the form with known documents. In rejecting claim 59, the Examiner cites a passage at col. 10, lines 21-24 of the then patent that states that "the collection 120 comprises all known documents that will ever be processed by a system according to the invention." [Emphasis added.] This passage has nothing whatsoever to do with populating a user-input form with known documents, as required by claim 59."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the combination of Dunworth and Liddy has already rendered obvious independent claims 50, 63, 75 and 87 there is no additional requirement that either Chen or Bollay also render these claims obvious. Bollay teaches the populating of forms as follows:

"...Local browser software **populates** a specific search **form** peculiar to a given remote database by utilizing the translations as embodied in JavaScript code..." at col. 2, lines 51-54.

This quote clearly shows that Bollay teaches the population of forms.

43. In the thirteenth argument for claim 59 on page 21, paragraphs 1 and 2 the Applicants state:

"Third, as discussed above, Bollay discloses the populating of a generic user-input form by a user. However, there is no disclosure or even suggestion that the Bollay generic user-input forms are populated with known documents. Rather, a user populates the

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Bollay generic user-input form not with documents, but with information needed for carry out some sort of e-commerce, such as the airline ticket purchase example disclosed by Bollay.

Applicants' position is that there is no motivation for someone skilled in the art to combine these four patents as the Examiner has done, except using an improper amount of hindsight of claim 59. Again, it is clear to Applicants that anyone having ordinary skill in the art, having reviewed the Dunworth et al., Liddy et al., Chen et al. and Bollay patents, would not arrive at the subject matter of claim 59 without claim 59 as a guide for bringing together limitations that are otherwise not obviously combinable. "

The Examiner disagrees. Chen teaches the use of known documents as follows:

"...It should be observed that in a presently preferred embodiment of the invention, the collection 120 comprises all **known documents** that will ever be processed by a system according to the invention..." at col. 10, lines 21-24.

The combined teachings of Bollay and Chen teach the limitation "forms are populated with known documents". In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Conclusion

44. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

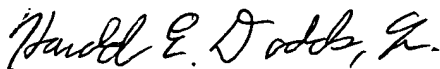
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

45. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (571)-272-4110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571)-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Harold E. Dodds, Jr.
Patent Examiner
August 4, 2005



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PRIMARY EXAMINER